

weapon would reverse the difficult achievements the United States has made to slow the proliferation of nuclear material and weapons.

Undoubtedly, reconsideration of this issue will occur next year and I look forward to debating it with a new Administration.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I believe the increased authorizations for national missile defense are unnecessary and unwarranted. Rather than accelerating program elements, I believe we should have a renewed debate, not only about the technological components of NMD, but also about the strategic and foreign policy questions it raises. Until those questions are fully debated before the American people, it is, in my view, unwise to increase NMD authorization levels.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report before us makes significant improvements to our Nation's defense. It takes significant steps to address issues associated with operations tempo and aging equipment. And, as important, it gives the members of our uniformed services not only the weapons, training, and equipment they need to prepare for the next war, but also the peace of mind that comes from a home and work environment reflective of the important role they perform for America and all Americans.

I urge adoption of the conference report.

#### MODIFYING RATES RELATING TO REDUCED RATE MAIL MATTER

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I am pleased to join Chairman MCHUGH in the consideration of S. 2686, legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 2686, on June 7, 2000, by Senator THAD COCHRAN, the Chairman, and Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services. This measure will provide much needed postage rate relief for nonprofit mailers and address serious shortcomings in the current United States Postal Service (USPS) rate case proposal that is now before the Postal Rate Commission (PRC).

On Friday, October 6, the United States Senate approved passage of S. 2686, legislation drafted by the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, the Postal Service, and others that is designed to protect preferred postal rates for nonprofit mailers.

S. 2686, which will protect nonprofit or preferred mailers from double-digit rate increases, is identical to H.R. 4636, legislation I introduced on June 12, 2000. I was joined in the introduction of this bill by Congressman STENY H. HOYER, Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, and Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS and Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS, both members of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service. To date a number of members have cosponsored my bill.

The practice of designating certain types of mail for preferred rates was initiated by the Congress more than 50 years ago. In 1993, deficit reduction legislation eliminated federal financial support for nonprofit mailers, but mandated that nonprofit rates be lower than rates for commercial mailers.

In January of this year, the Postal Service Board of Governors proposed postage rate increases for all classes of mail. The USPS formally filed the rate request which is pending before the PRC. The proposed postal rate increase for all classes of mail is designed to raise \$3.7 billion in new revenues—beginning in 2001. Under the current rate request, rates for nonprofits will surpass rates for corresponding commercial mail. The USPS attributed the increase to inaccurate cost data and have suggested that the “average” increase for mailers is approximately 6.4%. Unfortunately, for nonprofits and magazine industry, the hit is double-plus the average increase.

To its credit, the Postal Service requested and proposed legislation to fix the nonprofit rate anomaly. The legislative fix was drafted by the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers with the assistance of the Magazine Publishers of America, National Federation of Nonprofits, Direct Marketing Association, and others. These organizations worked with the postal service to craft an acceptable legislative solution to the nonprofit rate problem in the current rate case before the PRC. You are all to be commended. Without the legislation, the nonprofit periodical preferred rate will disappear.

How does S. 2686 correct the rate anomaly? The bill would “lock-in” the rate relationship between nonprofit and commercial Standard A and Periodical rates, which would prevent nonprofit mail from current and future “rate shock” by doing the following:

Set nonprofit Periodical rates at 95% of the commercial counterpart rate. Excluding the advertising portion, nonprofit mailers would receive a 5% discount off the commercial rate.

Set the revenue per piece for nonprofit Standard A mail to reflect a 40% discount over the revenue per piece received by commercial Standard A mail.

Set Library rates at 95% of the rates for the Special subclass of Standard B mail.

Passage of the bill is necessary before the Postal Rate Commission completes deliberations on the current rate case.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I would like to thank Chairman MCHUGH and his staff, Robert Taub and Heea Vazirani-Fales, for their hard work in ensuring a compromise on this matter, PRC Chairman Ed Gleiman for his efforts to keep Congress focused on fixing the problem, Neal Denton of the Alliance for keeping the coalition together and on track even in the face of last minute challenges, the Postal Service for being proactive and Nanci Langley, Deputy Minority Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services and Dan Blair, Senior Counsel, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee for all of their help and support. I must also commend and thank the Government Reform Committee Chairman, Congressman DAN BURTON for keeping all the parties together for the good of the nonprofit community. I close by thanking the Ranking Government Reform member, Congressman HENRY

A. WAXMAN for his support, hard work, and cosponsorship of H.R. 4636, and for bringing the bill to the attention of the Corrections Day Group.

And so, on behalf of local charities, hospitals, churches, educators, arts organizations, nonprofit publications, and a host of others including Girard College, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the National Association of Independent Schools, and Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine, and the cosponsors of H.R. 4636, I ask that my colleagues support S. 2686 and urge its swift adoption.

#### RECOGNIZING CELANESE CHEMICALS, CLEAR LAKE PLANT AS A LA PORTE-BAYSHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONOREE

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 16, 2000*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Celanese Chemicals Clear Lake Plant Site for being honored as the La Porte-Bayshore 2000 Industry of the Year. Celanese's commitment to building a better future for the LaPorte/Bayshore community has made it an example that all industry can follow.

Since 1967, Celanese Chemicals and its employees have been responsible members of the Clear Lake, Deer Park, La Porte-Bayshore, and Pasadena areas, all in my district. Celanese Chemicals, Clear Lake Plant Site, is a world leader in the production of organic materials and production of bulk commodity chemicals. Located on 1,000 acres, the plant's continuous program of innovation and improvement has increased the original plant's capacity to more than five billion pounds annually.

The Clear Lake Plant is specifically engineered for synergistic production. The synergy increases efficiency, minimizes waste and helps ensure quality. Products are shipped worldwide via pipeline, ocean-going tankers, barges, rail, and highway tank trucks. Celanese provides products to other petrochemical companies, specialty chemical companies, and consumer products companies around the world.

Dedication to worker safety and environmental performance has also been a hallmark of this company. Its proactive environmental and safety programs have received recognition from many organizations, including the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Chemical Manufacturers Association, and the Texas Chemical Council. In addition to being an integral part of the area economy, the company contributes greatly to the community. As a participant in Chemical Manufacturers Association's Responsible Care program, the plant takes part in community advisory panels, which creates dialogue with plant leadership and the local community. The plant is also a member of several community chambers of commerce and community service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Celanese Chemicals, on being named the La Porte-

Bayshore Chamber of Commerce 2000 Industry of the Year. This is well deserved for their hard work in expanding business, producing products vital to our lives, their commitment to environmental protection and worker safety, and their many contributions to the community.

CONGRATULATING PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL ON BEING DESIGNATED A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AND A NEW AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 16, 2000*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of Paint Branch High School on receiving a Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education. Achieving this honor demonstrates the commitment that both the faculty and administrators of Paint Branch have made to their students.

Paint Branch High School is continuously dedicated to excellence and committed to success. As Chair of the House Technology Subcommittee, I am especially proud of the science and media signature program. This program combines educational opportunities with three area high schools. Each school has its own signature program based on staff strengths and student interest. Additionally, Paint Branch High School is one of few in the county to offer three special education programs to help our students with special needs.

This weekend, Paint Branch High School will celebrate their great achievements. On October 13th Paint Branch students will hold a pep rally to share enthusiasm of this award and for the school's homecoming. In addition, the community celebration will bring together faculty, students, local business and community leaders. The National Blue Ribbon flag will be unveiled on Homecoming day, which will conclude the celebration. I congratulate the faculty, students and their supporters in organizing these events.

As a former educator in the Montgomery County's public school system, I am proud to recognize Paint Branch High School for its outstanding educational and extracurricular programs. I congratulate the school's students, faculty, supportive parents, and dedicated administrators. In addition, I thank Principal Fred Lowenbach whose leadership brought Paint Branch to its current reward. I wish Paint Branch High School continued success in achieving excellence in education.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN C. McMEEKIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UPCOMING RETIREMENT FROM THE CROZER-KEYSTONE HEALTH SYSTEM

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 16, 2000*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to have this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Mr. John C. McMeekin. Early next year John McMeekin will retire from his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of Crozer-Keystone Health System where he has served since 1990. The health care industry will lose a trailblazing leader when Jack steps down.

John McMeekin has been a leader in the health care field for over thirty-five years and his service is truly commendable. The Crozer-Keystone Health System consists of five hospitals with a licensed capacity of over 1200 beds, four long term care facilities totaling 800 licensed beds, a licensed HMO managed care organization and a network of salaried primary care and specialty physicians. System revenues totaled more than \$500 million in fiscal year 2000. Before joining Crozer-Chester Medical Center in 1983, Mr. McMeekin was a senior officer of Philadelphia Blue Cross and began his health career at Pennsylvania Hospital in 1965. He and his family reside in Philadelphia.

Mr. McMeekin is past Chairman of the Hospital & Health System Association of Pennsylvania and Chairman of their holding company, Health Alliance of Pennsylvania. In addition, he serves on the Board of VHA, the Board of Executive Committee of the American Hospital Association and chairs the AHA Regional Policy Group II. He also served on the Executive Committee and Board of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and was a trustee of Elwyn Institute. For twelve years Mr. McMeekin served as Public Governor on the Board of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. He is a graduate of Penn State University and holds a Masters degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

In September 1996 Crozer-Keystone opened their 200,000 square-foot, \$40 million Healthplex, a combination of a 40-bed acute care hospital and emergency service which includes 35,000 square feet of physician offices, four ambulatory surgical suites, a comprehensive rehabilitation facility and a large Sports and Fitness Club. Membership at the end of fiscal year 2000 was approximately 7,000.

Under Mr. McMeekin's able leadership, Crozer-Keystone served as an Action Learning Lab for AHA in November 1996 and has been cited for his work in measuring and monitoring the health status of its county of 550,000 people and for its investment in Information Systems. In February 1997 they began marketing their MedCarePlus directly to Medicare beneficiaries as one of the eight provider-sponsored HCFA Medicare Choices demonstration sites. Crozer-Keystone is a major teaching affiliate of Temple University in Philadelphia and

*October 16, 2000*

a member of the Council of Teaching Hospital and the National Chronic Care Consortium.

Mr. McMeekin's distinguished career includes service on numerous boards and associations including American College of Healthcare Executives, American Hospital Association, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, and the Union League of Philadelphia. His efforts have not gone unrecognized. Included among the awards he has received are: Distinguished Performance in Management Award (Widener University, 1995); Health Care Hero's Award (Philadelphia Business Journal, 1996); First Carl E. Moore Award for Health Care Leadership (Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, 1998) and First Health System Innovations and Development Award (National Health Strategies, 1998).

Mr. Speaker, the distinguished career of John C. McMeekin places him in the first rank of outstanding health care leaders of our time. His service to his profession and his fellow man serves as benchmark for us all. I know Jack personally. He is a good friend, a dedicated family man, and a patriotic citizen. It has been a pleasure to work closely with him, and an honor to be his friend.

At this time, I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to John C. McMeekin. On the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Crozer-Keystone Health System, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him all the best for the future.

IN MEMORY OF ZOE ANN ORR  
MARCUS

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 16, 2000*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the life of Zoe Ann Orr Marcus of Watsonville, California. Ms. Marcus, an integral part of the Pajaro Valley communities, died on Thursday, September 28, 2000.

Zoe was born in 1913 in Berkeley, California, but soon moved south to San Jose with her parents. She graduated from Stanford University with a degree in biological sciences, and received her master's degree in marine biology from Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. She later returned to Stanford to earn her teaching credentials. It was at Stanford that she met her future husband, Frank Fletcher Orr, and they were married in 1941. At that time, Mr. Orr was the managing editor of the Watsonville Register Pajaronian, but he was to later serve with the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War II. While he served as chief of still-picture operations, Ms. Marcus taught at Woods Hole Marine Institute in Massachusetts.

After the war, the couple returned to Watsonville, and in 1949 Mr. Orr was named editor of the Pajaronian. It was at this time that Mr. Orr purchased his family homestead on what is now East Beach Street in Watsonville. This Victorian farmhouse was built in 1868 by Mr. Orr's great-grandfather, Godfrey Bockius. Bockius was one of the